

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Town of Tisbury
Department of Public Works
115 High Point Lane, Tisbury, MA

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 18, 2021

Meeting called to order: 10:30am

Place: Zoom

Attendance: Committee members - Cheryl Doble (CD) Carolyn Wallis (CW), Henry Stephenson (HS), James Burrows (JB), Gerry Hokanson (GH)

Discussion

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 10/3/21
 - HS moved; GH seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Updates
 - *Owen Park Bandstand*

CD and Ben Robinson met with Keith Moscow, architect. Keith will provide construction drawings pro bono. He will also get an engineering study of the foundation, using available CPC funds approved for the Owen Park Bandstand planning. Keith wants to stick with the posts in his design and the stairs, but will look at changing the weave design of the roof and lighten up the structure – all which he feels will significantly reduce costs. CD reported that there have been some private donors who have come forth. Other thoughts of lowering cost is to have someone build the structure off-island and bring it over. Or, local contractors could give be asked to provide a bid – Ben will reach out to a few contractors.
 - *Tisbury School*

A new School Building Committee has not yet been appointed, so no further progress has been made re playground design. Siobhan Mullin will sit on the new committee. OSR will provide input when appropriate to elements of the playground and public access designs.
 - *Church Street Tennis Courts*

The bid has been advertised.
 - *Land Bank Trail to Old Sailor's Burying Ground*

GH reported that the trail is cut and walkable. Entrance is off from the power lines by the Manter well. Can get to this by walking down from the Park & Ride or from the Bare Hill Preserve to the DPW road that runs across south of the Park & Ride and the leach fields.
3. CPC Applications

Kirk Metell will represent the OSR and all four of our applications. CW is the OSR rep to the CPC Committee, so can also answer questions. Interview will be November 8th.
4. Tashmoo Springs Park

CD, HS and CW met at the park to look at the locations for the proposed CPC projects. CD will follow up with Lorraine Wells, Tashmoo Springs Building Committee to advise her of our application and with Jane Varconda, Conservation Commission to confirm the location of an overlook and spur from the woodland walking path and to see how close any path can come to the shore of the pond. There was discussion about making sure we continue to keep in mind the longer view of dredging the pond itself and keeping the species alive and thriving. Options for an ADA path over a mobi mat onto the field to gain a view of the Lake were found to be non-starters as there was no view of the Lake from any of the choices – the view is really only from the overlook, so best for a disabled person to view from a car at the overlook itself. The ADA parking space for the building was found to be in the wrong location and should more reasonably be at the bottom of the drive, in front of one of the two sheds. The amphitheater ADA space also needs some work in terms of signage, slope of walkway from the space into the amphitheater (need railings and more grading) and the space drainage needs to be improved.

5. West Chop Tennis Program Proposal

JB discussed the proposal from David McNamara regarding setting up a tennis clinic at the Lake Street Courts next summer as a “trial run” for a more expansive summer tennis program to be run by the West Chop tennis group. JB will ask David to expand on his proposal to include how many courts would the clinic use, and whether they would be taking on any maintenance. He will also ask for more on the vision of a more expansive program at both Church Street and Lake Street that might transpire if the trial clinics show lots of interest. This would include the idea of more physical improvements such as three courts at Lake Street, and a pro shop/court reservations shed at Church Street or Lake Street.

There was discussion about improvements to Lake Street Park in the area of the tennis courts, particularly if there was a third court. JB supported the idea of one cohesive park from the upper park that would include courts and a kids play area, possibly a restroom/tennis pro shop, connected by a woodland walkway to the lower park dock and boating area at Lake Tashmoo. HS raised the idea of speaking with Steve Ewing about how he might construct a series of steps and landings that would lead down from the end of the walking trail from the upper park to the dock/beach area over a steep descent. All of these ideas will be important to flesh out prior to presenting ideas to the neighbors and gathering community insight and comment about what they want to see in the park.

6. 4 State Road, MVC DRI

The former Educomp building at 4 State Road is being proposed for a retail and mid-rise residential facility. CD is concerned about runoff into adjacent Veteran’s Park and would like OSR to comment on the plans. CD will send out the presentation on the project given to the Planning Board.

7. Story Maps

GH discussed a new storymap of a walking route from the SSA ferry terminal along Lagoon Pond Road, past the Martha’s Vineyard Museum to Lagoon Pond. He will send the draft “story” and photos to the committee for review and editorial suggestions.

CD asked about the progress of Visit Vineyard Haven’s storymap for a walk through the “village” of Vineyard Haven and along historic William Street. CW will check on the status.

8. Lagoon Harbor Park

CD discussed the need to continue communication with Vineyard Wind about their public access plans and commitment to spend \$500,000 on public recreation and water access. HS supported continuing to discuss the location of the public overlook and beach access. He would like to see the overlook moved eastward in front of one of the groins that could be repurposed as a fishing pier. GH liked the idea of a stone “revetment” along the harbor side of the seawall. JB would like to make sure that the beach between the seawall and the Vineyard Wind wharf is integrated into their public access plan, regardless of where the overlook ends up. HS discussed that the lagoon-side Harbor Park is a disturbed landscape, with shallow depth from beach to road and some special natural features, such as the salt marsh and the clam beds. He supports a plan that integrates the historical, natural features with the plans for repurposing former roadway remains and obstacles into a level path along the beach, plus the bike path through the park and across the town landing, all emphasizing that this is a park for walkers and bikers, not cars and parking. CD will invite Jay Grande to an OSR meeting to review our ideas, as Jay is the town’s liaison to Vineyard Wind and could support/recommend the park ideas and public access needs to them.

9. Next Meeting Agenda

Possible agenda items –

- JB -bike trails through Vineyard Haven
- 4 State Road proposed plan
- Project follow-up
- Topo and GIS maps from Chris Seidel for Lake Street and Tashmoo Springs parks – HS

10. Adjournment

GH moved; HS seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Next Meeting – November 1, 2021, 10:30-noon. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting.

Submitted by C. Wallis